

Special Fishing Licenses

Warm Water Game Fish Stamp

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a Warm Water Game Fish Stamp to help fund construction of a warm water game fish hatchery near Fort Peck. The stamp is required for anglers to possess any warm water fish caught in designated waters. An angler who is required to be licensed to fish in Montana and who possesses any warm water game fish (including, but not limited to, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, burbot, walleye, sauger, black crappie, white crappie, channel catfish, yellow perch, northern pike, and tiger muskellunge) on waters listed in each district must purchase a warm water game fish stamp. The stamp is not required just to fish if none of these species will be harvested. Resident youth under 15 years of age, residents 62 years of age and older, and resident disabled anglers are exempt.

Resident and Nonresident \$5.00

District regulations list the waters that require this stamp.

Paddlefish

All anglers must purchase a paddlefish tag to fish for paddlefish. To purchase a tag: Residents aged 15-61 must have a valid Conservation License and Fishing License. Resident youth 14 and younger and resident anglers over 62 must have a Conservation License. Nonresidents of any age, including youth 14 and younger, must have a valid Conservation License and a Fishing License. Limit of one tag per person.

Resident - **\$6.50** each Nonresident - **\$15** each

Bull Trout

Hungry Horse Reservoir, Lake Koocanusa and part of the South Fork Flathead River are open for a regulated and experimental bull trout angling season. **When fishing for bull trout each angler must have in possession a valid Bull Trout Catch Card for the specific water he/she is fishing.**

Catch Cards are free of charge, but must be acquired by application from the FWP Region One office in Kalispell or online at www.fwp.mt.gov. Completed applications must be presented at the regional headquarters or mailed to FWP Bull Trout Permit, 490 North Meridian, Kalispell MT 59901. Your 2006 Catch Card must be turned in to the Kalispell FWP office before you will be issued a 2007 Catch Card.

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Montana Resident With Disability

Resident Person With a Disability Conservation License - \$8

Must be permanently and substantially disabled. Applications and licenses available only at regional FWP offices. These licenses are not available to nonresidents. Allows the holder to fish.

Lifetime Fishing License for the Blind - \$10

Contact the Helena FWP Licensing office for information and an application.

Veterans Administration Patients

Permits are available for patients residing at VA Hospitals and residents of State institutions, except the State penitentiary. These free permits are available on-site at the VA hospital or State institution.

Legion of Valor

A Conservation License allows both residents and non-residents, regardless of age, to fish. Legion of Valor membership card required to qualify.

Care Facility

The manager or director of an eligible facility licensed in Montana may apply for permission to take supervised residents fishing during activities approved by the facility. Licensed facilities include long-term care, personal care, home for persons with developmental disabilities and home for persons with severe disabilities.

Education Exemptions

Free fishing license exemptions are available to qualified educational events and fishing clinics. For information on these free educational exemptions, call 406-444-9736.

Other Permit Requirements and Laws

Fishing Contests

A permit from FWP is required for most fishing contests. Contact your local FWP office for information and an application or download an application from the FWP Web Page.

Aquatic Invertebrates

Crayfish

A valid fishing license is required to harvest crayfish for personal use (see "Licenses to Fish in Montana" for specific license requirements). Crayfish may be taken in traps no larger than 24x12x12 inches. Commercial harvest of crayfish for any purpose is prohibited.

Mussels

In accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana, Section 12.2.501, it is unlawful to take or possess freshwater mussels or their shells for sale or commercial distribution.

Collecting Aquatic Invertebrates Commercially

Persons wishing to collect other aquatic invertebrates (such as leeches and aquatic insects) for sale or commercial distribution should contact their regional FWP office for information.

Commercial Fishing Licenses

Commercial Whitefish Fishing

A permit is required to sell whitefish.

Hook and Line Permits: Whitefish may be taken by hook and line for sale in the following waters--Flathead Lake north of the Flathead Reservation boundary, Flathead River north of Flathead Lake, and Whitefish Lake.

Net/Seine Permits: Whitefish may be taken from the Kootenai River and tributaries (within one mile of the Kootenai River). Application required; fee is \$200 plus a \$1,000 bond per year.

Bait Fish Seining: Commercial Harvest, \$10 Fee

Contact regional FWP offices for a Bait Fish Seining License and a list of waters open to commercial seining: \$10 fee per year.

A bait fish seining license is required:

- For persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana;
- For any person who seines for and has in his/her possession more than 24 dozen nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be harvested commercially and transported in accordance with Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Section 12.7.201-12.7.206. Live bait fish or leeches may not be imported into Montana for commercial or other purposes unless authorized by FWP. Bait fish may not be exported without FWP authorization. Call 406-452-6181 or go online at fwp.mt.gov for more information.

Fish Import Permits

A permit is required to import live fish into Montana. Contact the FWP Fish Health Lab in Great Falls at 406-452-6181 or download an application from the FWP Web Page.

Private Fish Ponds – License Requirements, \$10 Fee for 10 years

A person who owns or lawfully controls a private fish pond may obtain a license from FWP to stock the pond with fish. Only lawfully purchased fish may be planted. Contact your local FWP office for more information and an application or download the application from the FWP Web Page. No fishing license is required to fish on licensed, privately stocked fish ponds. Fishing license requirements apply to all other ponds and/or waters on private land.